R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The objection to the drawings has been obviated by appropriate amendment to the claims and should be withdrawn.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 14 and 15 may be found, for example, on page 5, line 11, of the specification as filed. Support for newly presented claim 21 can be found on page 9, line 14, of the specification as filed. Support for newly presented claim 22 can be found in FIG. 3 and the associated text. Support for the newly presented claim 23 can be found on page 10 of the specification as filed. As such, no new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by DeKoning, et al. '023 (hereinafter DeKoning) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

DeKoning discloses a method for logical unit creation with immediate availability in a RAID storage environment (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides a method for providing sequential initialization of redundancy data in a volume. The method includes initializing a redundancy location of the volume as data, and a redundancy of the data, is written to the volume. Claims 14 and 15 provide similar limitations.

DeKoning does not disclose or suggest initializing a redundancy location of a volume as data is written to the volume, as presently claimed. In particular, DeKoning discloses that the initialization process proceeds in parallel with host system access to the storage space (see Abstract of DeKoning). The initialization process of the present invention does not proceed in parallel, but rather occurs as data is written to the volume. The summary of DeKoning is consistent with this interpretation. For example, Col. 3, lines 42 and 43 of DeKoning provide that I/O requests are to be performed in parallel with initialization. Col. 3, line 45 of DeKoning references the eventual completion of the initialization. Such completion is inconsistent with the initialization as data is written, as presently claimed.

Newly presented claim 21 provides the initialization only as data is written. Claim 21 is believed to be independently patentable over DeKoning.

Newly presented claim 22 provides three locations of a boundary. Claim 22 is believed to be independently patentable over DeKoning.

Newly presented claim 23 provides that the initialization is implemented in a snapshot volume. Claim 23 is believed to be independently patentable over DeKoning.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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